

**Page 36: The answer to Hon. Jacqui Munro's question**

**When did the Share Our Space (SOS) program commence?**

The SOS program started in the summer holidays of 2017, with 42 schools participating in the first pilot. A second pilot, in the autumn holidays of 2018, expanded the number of participating schools to 81, of which sixteen (16) schools were also in the first pilot program.

The program closed operations during the COVID pandemic lockdown in 2020 and 2021. Different phases in the easing of COVID restrictions were met with a spike in the number of participating schools in the SOS program, with a greater number (585) of schools in the SOS program during the summer of 2021. Since then, there have been variations, with a participatory intake of 497 schools during the spring holidays of 2022.

Source: NSW Department of Education (2022).